

Amendments To The Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 1 and ending on page 1, line 14, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Over the last fifteen years or so, CCD cameras have developed from expensive laboratory devices to a preferred form of video sensor. It is well known to those skilled in the imaging art that the sensitivity versus wavelength curve of various types of imaging devices differs substantially from that of the human eye (for example, in the absence of sensitizing dyes, silver halide media are sensitive to near ultra-violet and blue light, but are essentially insensitive to red light). However, since both monochrome and color CCD video cameras are almost always sold with a "packaged" CCD arranged to have a sensitivity versus wavelength curve closely emulating that of the human eye, few people other than those skilled in the manufacture of CCD's realize that such devices have sensitivities extending from the ultra-violet through the near infrared (approximately 700-1000 nm) regions, and that their sensitivity actually peaks in the near infrared region, typically around 850 nm. The packaged CCD's normally sold are equipped with filters which essentially eliminate all radiation longer than about 700 nm. Other types of solid state imagers have similar sensitivities. The solid state imager of the invention preferably has an operating mode wherein it has substantial sensitivity to infrared radiation in the range of about 700 to about 1400 nm.